

# SPORTS

## Ducks regroup after hoop loss

By Jayson Jacoby  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon's 79-58 loss to 13th-ranked Missouri Saturday night in its final non-conference game went pretty much like most people expected.

The outmanned Ducks couldn't stay with the 11-0 Tigers inside or in the open court and Missouri easily extended the longest current winning streak in NCAA Division I to 17 games.

But what came as a surprise may end up costing Oregon a lot more down the road than Saturday's 21-point loss.

Five minutes into the game and with the score tied at nine, sophomore forward Jordy Lyden — Oregon's second-leading scorer at 13.9 points per game — stepped on Missouri center Jevon Crudup's foot and ended up writhing in pain under the basket.

Lyden did not break his foot, but the sophomore will miss four to six weeks after X-rays taken Sunday revealed sprained intertarsal ligaments in his right foot.

Lyden's injury came exactly one week after another Oregon starter, junior point guard Andre Collier, was likely lost for the year with a broken foot in the Ducks' 105-75 loss to LaSalle at the Far West Classic.

Collier's injury forced junior transfer Antoine Stoudamire, who was eligible after the end of last term following a move from Georgetown, to take over the point guard spot, a position he hadn't played since high school.

And with Lyden out of the lineup, Stoudamire has to change positions again, taking over the vacated forward spot.

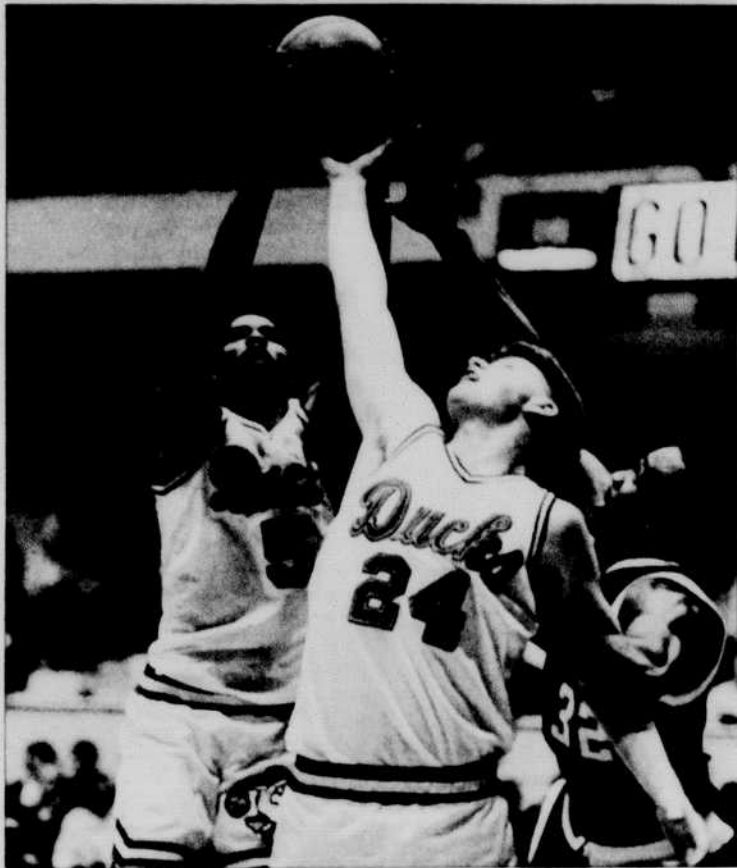
The rash of injuries has Oregon coach Don Monson scratching his head in disbelief.

"I've got to talk to (Oregon football coach Rich) Brooks," Monson said. "He must be hanging around me too much."

Monson isn't laughing about losing two starters from a team already very short on experience, including Lyden, who has seen more of the Pacific-10 Conference than anyone else.

"We're short some kids," Monson said. "We just have to regroup and go from there."

Losing Lyden definitely hurt the Ducks, but it probably wouldn't have affected the out-



Oregon's Antoine Stoudamire and Jeff Potter go for the rebound against the Missouri Tigers.

come of Saturday's game much.

Oregon did play well for much of the first half, though, coming out with a slow-paced offense that kept Missouri's vaunted defense at bay for most of the first 20 minutes.

The Ducks had considerable trouble handling the ball against LaSalle after Collier was injured, and Monson's game plan spread that responsibility around to Stoudamire, Johnnie Reece, Clyde Jordan and Orlando Williams.

Surprisingly, after Lyden went out, Oregon went on an 8-2 run, taking a 17-11 lead and getting the small crowd of 6,128 into the game.

Missouri didn't win its first 10 games by panicking, however, and the Tigers used their defense and some incredible shooting by sophomore guard Melvin Booker to take the momentum right back.

The Ducks took their last lead at 20-18 on a Stoudamire lay-in with just under nine minutes left in the first half, and Missouri responded by going on a 15-4 run.

The Tigers used three straight steals — two off its aggressive

full-court press — to score six points, capped off by Booker's steal and dunk.

Williams hit one of two free throws to get the Ducks back within eight at 33-25, but then Booker took over with his long-range bombs to push the lead into double figures.

Booker's first three-pointer, from at least 24 feet, gave Missouri a 36-25 edge.

Then, after freshman Jeff Potter dunked off a nice pass from Reece, Booker hit an even longer rainbow to up the lead to 39-27. A three-pointer by Stoudamire cut the lead to 43-30 at halftime.

Missouri quickly took a 17-point lead in the second half on a lay-in by All-American Anthony Peeler, who was held to just 12 points, half his average.

Led by some of Jordan's athletic plays, Oregon climbed back to within 11 at 57-46 on an acrobatic bankshot by the sophomore forward with 12 minutes left.

Missouri scored the next six points — four by Peeler — to lead 63-46, and the Ducks nev-

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